



Indiana Historical Bureau

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News

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“Charles Gordone” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Elkhart

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009. The state historical marker commemorating the life and work of Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Charles Gordone will be dedicated at the Elkhart Public Library, located at 300 South Second Street, Elkhart. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 A.M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Charles Gordone”:

Born in Ohio, 1925, Gordone grew up in Elkhart and graduated from Elkhart High School in 1944. In the 1950s, he moved to New York City where he worked as an actor, director, and playwright. During the 1960s, he acted in the award-winning off-Broadway play, *The Blacks*, and worked to ensure more opportunities for blacks in the entertainment industry. In 1970, Gordone won national acclaim as the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *No Place to Be Somebody*, also the first off-Broadway play to win the award. In the 1980s, Gordone advocated integrating minority actors into the casts of classic dramas. In 1987, he joined the Texas A&M University faculty. He died in 1995.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana historical marker that commemorates Gordone’s contributions to theater as an actor, director, and playwright.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For more information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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